

Message Text

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P R 281205Z NOV 73

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TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0690

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

DIA WASHDC

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USINFO FOR IOR/M, IPS, IBS, INE

BEIRUT FOR VOA AND RAPA

ROME FOR VOA

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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION NOV 28

1. LABOR PARTY'S DEBATES ON POLITICAL PLATFORM AND VOTE
OF CONFIDENCE IN LEADERSHIP OF MRS MEIR ARE MAJOR PRESS
ITEMS. DAVAR EDITORIAL ASSERTS MRS MEIR ENJOYS CONFIDENCE
OF ALL SEGMENTS OF PARTY. HAARETZ EDITORIAL SAYS NOTWITH-
STANDING PRE-WAR ERRORS, MEIR-DAYAN DESERVE PARTY'S
CONFIDENCE. EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI TALKS AT KILOMETER 101 CONHINUE
TO FIGURE PRIMINENTLY. COMMENTATORS NOTE THAT DESPITE
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DEADLOCK EGYPTIANS INTERESTED IN CONTINUATION OF DIALOGUE.N

HAARETZ (GOLAN) SAYS YARIV GOING TO NEXT MEETING WITHOUT NEW INSTRUCTIONS. AFTERNOON PRESS NOTES THAT FORMAL INVITATION TO PEACE CONF DUE TODAY OR TOMORROW. YEDIOT AHARONOT (ZIMUKY) SAYS: (A) ISRAEL CANNOT AGREE TO SYRIAN PARTICIPATION BEFORE RELEASE OF POWS; AND (B) DAYAN WILL DISCUSS IN WASHINGTON PROBLEMS INHERENT IN SIMULTANEOUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THREE ARAB COUNTRIES. DAVAR (ESHED) SAYS DAYAN BELIEVES US SHOULD BECOME PARTY TO ANY PEACE AGREEMENT. HAARETZ (AAREI) WARNS ARAB LEADERS THAT IGNORING JORDAN'S DEMAND ON PALESTINIA SUBJECT WILL HAVE SERIOUS IMPACT ON PEACE CONF. DAVAR (ZIDKONI) CLAIMS MAJORITY OF WEST BANK RESIDENTS VIEW ARAAFAT AS APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIVE TO PEACE CONF. MAARIV (SEGEV FROM WASHINGTON) SAYS KISSINGER'S TRIP TO MID EAST DEPENDS ON EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN CONSENT. PRESS CARRIES LETTER OF INSTRUCTION GIVEN BY EGYPTIAN CHIEF OF STAFF TO KILL ISRAELI POWS. COMMENTATORS URGE PUBLIC TO SHAKE GLOOMY MOOD.

2. LABOR PARTY: (A) PRESS DEVOTES PRIME SPACE TO LABOR PARTY DEBATES (NOV 28). DIFFERENCES OF OPINION SEEM TO FOCUS ON TWO ISSUES: (A) WHETHER OR NOT TO SUPPORT GOLDA-DAYAN-GALILI; AND (B) WHETHER GALILI DOCUMENT SHOULD BE SHELVED. ALTHOUGH PRESS CARRIES REPORTS ON CRITICISM AND DEMANDS TO REMOVE MRS MEIR AND DAYAN, MAJORITY OF COMMENTATORS BELIEVE PRESENT LEADERSHIP WILL GAIN PARTY'S VOTE OF CONFIDENCE.

(B) DAVAR'S WEEKLY WEITORY (ZEMORA) COMMENTS: "THE LABOR PARTY AND THE GOI ARE ENTITLED TO STATE WITH CONFIDENCE... THAT THEIR (PRE-WAR) POLICY WAS CORRECT... TODAY, MORE THAN EVEN, THERE IS NO NEED TO DISPENSE WITH ANY OF THE PRINCIPLES OF ITS POLICY... THE GALILI DOCUMENT DOES NOT NEED TO BE REVISED... THE POLICY WAS BASED ON...(AL) CREATING A NEW BASIS FOR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES...(B) SHAPING DEFENSIBLE BORDERS... AND (C) ISRAELI ACTIVITY WITHIN DEFINED BORDERS.. I.E CONTROLLED SETTLEMENT... IF THE YOM KIPPUR WAR BROUGHT ANY CHANGE... IT EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR SECURITY... STRATEGIC DEPTH BECAME A PRACTICAL MATTER... IN MANY PLACES LIKE THE HEIGHTS, THE JORDAN VALLEY AND THE (RAFAH) JUNCTION.. THERE CAN BE NO STRATEGIC DEPTH WITHOUT SETTLEMENT...."

(C) HAARETZ (MARCUS) REMARKS: "... ALTHOUGH GOLDA AND DAYAN'S UNCLASSIFIED

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POPULARITY HAS DECLINED THEY ARE STILL CONSIDERED THE MOST IMPORTANT ASSETS WHICH THE PARTY HAS TODAY... IF THIS THOUGHT PREVAILS, AS MANY (IN THE PARTY) THINK... THIS MEANS A MAJOR VICTORY FOR GOLDA AND DAYAN.." RECALLING DAYAN'S SPEECH (NOV 23) (NO WITHDRAWAL FROM SHARM EL SHEIKH, JORDAN RIVER, NABLUS MOUNTAINS AND GOLAN HEIGHTS, NOT TO GIVE UP ISRAELI ACTIVITY IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, GUARANTEES WILL NOT BE SUBSTITUTE FOR SECURE BORDERS AND NO WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT PEACE), MARCUS SAYS:

"... EVEN IF THE PARTY'S RESOLUTION WILL NOT SPECIFICALLY INCLUDE THE ABOVE PROVISIONS... IT IS POSSIBLE TO PRESUME THAT THIS WILL BECOME THE POLICY OF THE NEXT GOI.... THE TRUTH IS... UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND IN VIEW OF THE STATEMENTS MADE BY ARAB LEADERS WHO WANT TO FORCE A WITHDRAWAL ON ISRAEL... IT IS NOT EASY TO SUGGEST AN ALTERNATIVE POLICY."

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3. DAYAN'S VIEWS: DAVAR (HISTADRUT) (ESHED) WRITES: "... DAYAN BELIEVES THAT BEFORE ISRAEL AGREES TO WITHDRAW FROM THE CANAL.. IT SHOULD CLARIFY THE POSITIONS OF THE US AND THE USSR ON DEMILITARIZATION, SUPERVISION AND GUARANTEES... DAYAN ALSO BELIEVES THE CANAL IS AN IMPORTANT ISRAELI CARD WHICH SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN AWAY WITHOUT AN APPROPRIATE (EGYPTIAN) CONCESSION... ISRAEL WILL STAND FIRM ON THE PRINCIPLE OF 'GIVE AND TAKE'... THERE SEEMS TO BE A NEED TO HAVE THE US BECOME A PARTY TO ANY PEACE AGREEMENT IN VIEW OF THE SOVIET INVOLVEMENT WHICH WILL NOT BECOME LESS THAN IN THE PAST... REGARDING THE QUESTION OF

SECURE BORDERS (EGYPT-ISRAELI)... DAYAN BELIEVES THAT THE LINE SHOULD PASS NORTH OF THE GAZA STRIP... THE LAST WAR CHANGED NOTHING IN THE BASIC PROBLEM OF DETERMING THE BORDER..."

4. ISRAEL-EGYPT TALKS: REPORTERS EXPECT GAP BETWEEN ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN POSITION ON TROOP. DISENGAGEMENT TO REMAIN, NOT UNCLASSIFIED

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WITHSTANDING NUMBER OF MEETINGS TO BE HELD BY NEGOTIATORS AT KILOMETER 101. HATZOFE (NATIONAL RELIGIOUS) REPORTS: " THERE ARE DIFERENCES OF OPINION AMONG POLITICAL CIRCLES IN ISRAEL AS TO WHERE ISRAEL WOULD ACHIEVE BETTER RESULTS... IN THE COURSE OF KILOMETER 101 TALKS... OR AT THE PEACE CONFERENCE.. THE FACT IS THAT NO US PRESSURE EXISTS... MAKES THE TALKS AT KILOMETER 101 EASIER TO MANAGE... HOWEVER, THERE IS NO ELEMENT (THERE) THAT CAN INFLUENCETHE EGYPTIANS AND SWAY THEM FROM THEIR POSITION..."

5. ARAB SUMMIT: YEDIOT AHARONO T(GUINEY) COMMENTS:"... THIS TIME THE SUMMIT DECIDED TO LET SADAT GO TO THE NEGOTIATIONS... HOWEVER IT CREATED NEW OBSTACLES... THE DECISION TO RECOGNIZE THE PLO AS THE LEGITIMATE REP OF THE PALESTINIAN NATION.... WILLMAKE IF HARD FOR JORDAN AND ISRAEL TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TALKS... THE DECISION TO EASE THE OIL EMBARGO ON JAPAN AND OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES...IS INDICATIVE OF THE TACTICS WHICH THE ARABS INTEND TO USE... TO FORCE ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW... NOTWITHSTANDING EGYPTIAN THREATS... THE CHANCES ARE GOOD THAT THEY WILL ATTEND THE PEACE CONF EVEN IF ISRAEL DOES NOT WITHDRAW HO THE OCT 22 LINES..."

6. FORMAL INVITATION TO PEACE CONF (A) AFTERNOON PRESS NOTE THAT FORMAL INVITATION IS DUE FOR DELIVERY TO ISRAEL TODAY OR TOMORROW. PAPERS NOTE THAT PRIMIN MEIR HELD CONSULTATIONS IN ANTICIPATION OF ISRAEL'S OFFICIAL RESPONSE. YEDIOT AHARONOT (ZIUMKY) ADDS:" ONE OF THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS... IS SYRIA'S PARTICIPATION AT THE PEACE CONF... ISRAEL WILL NOT AGREE TO PARTICIPATE WITH SYRIA UNLESS IT RELEASES THE POWS... DAYAN WILL DISCUSS WITH THE AMERICANAS THE PROBLEMS INHERENT IN HOLDING TALKS WITH THREE ARAB COUNTRIES AT ONE AND THE SAME TIME WHEN ISJAE'S PROBLEMS WITH EACH COUNTRY DIFFER FROM THE OTHER..."

(B) MAARIV (IND) (HARIF) NOTES: ISRAEL IS SEEKING CLARIFICATION FROM THE US IN ANTICIPATION OF THE PEACE TALKS BOTH REGARDING THE FORMULA DND THE SUBJECTS THAT MIGHT COME UP AT THE PEACE TALKS... IT HAS BEEN LEARNED THAT WASHINGTON PROMISED THAT THE PALESTINAISN WILL NOT BE INVITED TO THE PEACE CONF WITHOUT ISRAEL'S CONSENT.

7. KISSINGER'S MID EAST TRIP: AFTERNOON PRESS CARRIES UNCLASSIFIED

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REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON THAT KISSINGER WILL VISIT MID-EAST AGAIN BEFORE OPENING OF PEACE CONF. MAARIV (SEGEV FROM WASHINGTON) ADDS: " THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS NOT YET RECEIVED EGYPT AND SYRIA'S APPROVAL TO VISIT THEIR COUNTRIES... ACCORDING TO OBSERVERS... KISSINGER IS HESITANT TO VISIT ISRAEL ONLY... THAT IS WHY THE STATE DEPT REFUSED TO COMMENT ON THE REPORT.."
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